GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Government Removes Visa and Entry Permit Requirements for Eligible Children Born in The Virgin Islands

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The Department of Immigration is reminding parents of changes to the Immigration and Passport Act that remove visa and Entry Permit requirements for certain children born in the Virgin Islands.

Under Statutory Instrument No. 26 of 2026, Gazetted on 11 May 2026, children under the age of 11 who were born in the Virgin Islands, to parents who are ordinarily resident in the Territory, and who do not hold a Certificate of Residence or Belonger Status are exempt from the visa requirement.

The Order supports provisions introduced under the Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Act, 2024, which allow eligible children to land and embark in the Territory without the usual immigration controls. As a result, these children are no longer required to obtain an Entry Permit or seek permission from the Department of Immigration to remain in the Virgin Islands or to attend school.

Chief Immigration Officer Mrs. Nadia Demming-Hodge stated, “These changes represent an important step in modernising our immigration framework and reducing unnecessary barriers for children born and raised in our Territory. This initiative supports the Premier and Minister for Immigration mandate to ensure that eligible children can enter the Territory, access education and essential services without delay prior to their attaining permanent status, while maintaining the integrity of our immigration system.”

The exemptions apply to children who:

- Are under 11 years of age;
- Were born in the Virgin Islands;

- Are ordinarily resident in the Virgin Islands
- Have parents who are ordinarily residents in the Territory; and
- Do not hold a Certificate of Residence or Belonger Status under sections 16 or 18 of the Act

Children who are 11 years or older, or who do not currently reside in the Territory do not qualify for this exemption and must comply with the applicable immigration requirements to enter and remain in the Territory.

To assist families, the Department of Immigration has begun issuing confirmation letters to parents of eligible children. These letters can be used as supporting documentation for school registration and other official processes. Parents of eligible children who have not yet received a confirmation letter are encouraged to visit the Department of Immigration's offices on Tortola or Virgin Gorda for assistance.

The Department remains committed to administering the Territory's immigration laws in a fair and practical manner while addressing the needs of families living in the Virgin Islands. For further information, contact the Department of Immigration at immigrationinfo@gov.vg, telephone (284) 468-4700/4705, or visit its offices in person.

For Additional Information Contact:

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Additional Documents or Media

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